

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT United Steel Works, Kladno

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REFERENCES

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1. The United Steel Works (SONP), at Kladno, are subject to the authority of the Ministry for Foundries and Ore Mines. The director of the plant is Vaclav Pácar, successor to Páonar (fnu).
2. The full name of the plant is Spojene ocelarny, n.p., Kladno (United Steel Works, National Enterprise, Kladno). The plant was formerly known as "Pěldina Hut".
3. The production of this plant is restricted to steel products. The following are manufactured there:
  - a. Forge 1:  
Rifle barrels; approximately 300 per shift.  
Barrels for quick-firing guns; approximately 30 per shift.
  - b. Forge 2:  
Compressing of Avia drive shafts: approximately eight per shift.  
Compressing of Skoda Kassa drive shafts: approximately 15 per shift.
  - c. Forge 3:  
Compressing of Praga RND drive shafts: approximately 25 per shift.  
Compressing of Skoda AN drive shafts: approximately 30 per shift.  
Compressing of Zetor drive shafts: approximately 35 per shift.  
Compressing and forging of different types of automobile engine parts, such as front axles, connecting rods, valves and parts for steering mechanisms.
  - d. Mechanics 1 (M 1):  
Oil drilling pipe and couplings for export to the USSR and Great Britain.
  - e. Mechanics 2 (M 2):  
Kassa main shafts, sometimes also Avia. The Kassa main shafts are used for Skoda armored cars. Approximately 12 Kassa and three or four Avia main shafts are manufactured per shift.  
Praga-Baby (4-piston): approximately 30 per month.

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Main shafts for speedboats, Simmering model: five to eight per month.

f. Mechanics 3 (M3):

Main shafts for motors: RN, RND, Zetor; also different types of spare parts for automobiles upon individual request.  
Cylinders for airplane engines; approximately 120 per shift.

g. Mechanics 4 (M4):

Not in operation at the time of observation, but they had started to equip this section with metal working machines.

h. In the rolling mills, different types of partially completed rolled products are manufactured, also welded pipes made of "Antikorro" (stainless steel).

i. In the Martin furnaces, Martin steel is produced, some for the plant's own use.

4. Raw materials such as scrap iron, different kinds of metallic ore and other auxiliary materials are used in the plant. The average stock amounts to approximately six carloads of manganese, approximately two or three carloads of another ore (probably "Magnesit"), and about eight carloads of limestone and refining materials for steel production.

5. Electricity is supplied by the power plant of the Konev Foundry of the SONP; gas is produced in the plant's own gas works. The main pipeline is installed on masts approximately four meters high. It runs in a zigzag and its lower points are fastened to the masts with clamps. The upper points are approximately seven meters above the ground. The pipe has a diameter of about 800 mm. The individual parts are welded together. Apparently only the junctions are made of cast iron. Every low point of the pipeline has an escape valve (pipe of about 50 mm. diameter). Below these valves are iron tubs which catch the sediment. The gas pressure is rather low, and gas is used in the "warm" sections for heating the furnaces.

6. High pressure steam is used for the operation of some of the machines in the forges. Steam with normal pressure is used for the central heating system. The boiler building is probably in the vicinity of the gas works.

7. Water is used for cooling some of the machines and furnaces. The water container is located at the crossing of the Prague-Slany and Bustehrad-Citovice roads. The water is pumped there from the Vltava River. There is another water container and pump station within the plant. A new water container is being constructed in the triangle formed by the towns of Rapice, Drin and the Sv. Jan cemetery. There are two cooling towers outside the plant area and southwest of it.

8. Products and materials are transported from the Dubi railroad station over a railroad siding through the area of the Konev Foundry. The main units of the Kladno plant are connected by a narrow-gauge railroad, and the plant employs approximately 25 locomotives which are equipped in the heating plant (sic). In addition to the narrow-gauge railroad, the plant has 15 or 20 trucks and tractors and 8 or 10 passenger cars. The garages are located in Kladno in the building formerly occupied by the police commissariat. The filling station for oil and gasoline is located on the plant area near the fire station.

9. Steel bars of different qualities and dimensions are always kept on hand. Round, square, triangular and flat profile steel up to 20 mm. in diameter is stored in lengths from three to six meters. Those more than 20 mm. in diameter are stored in lengths up to 20 meters. Other types of steel include TN, CRK, Maxim, etc. Approximately 30 carloads of 20 tons each are stored. The other products (main shafts, cylinders, etc.) are usually delivered directly from the manufacturing section. Approximately 15 carloads of coke and about four carloads of coal are stored, unprotected, near the heating plant. All other necessary raw materials and auxiliary materials are stored within the plant.

10. The plant employed approximately 22,000 workers, of whom about 2,200 were women and about 3,000 to 4,000 brigade workers. The working hours were divided into three shifts; from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The shifts for the individual sections were as follows:

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Offices - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 M1, 2, 3 - normally two but sometimes three shifts  
 furnaces, rolling mills, } three shifts  
 forges and power plants }

The workers could obtain their food in the plant's kitchen. The price of lunch or dinner for six days was 35 Kcs. (prior to the currency reform of June 1953) but food ration coupons had to be submitted. In the M 2 section the cloak-room attendant obtained the meal tickets, for which the workers merely had to give her the necessary sum of money and the food ration coupons. She also brought the food to the messhall in the M 2 section, where the workers formerly ate. Beer was sold here, as in most of the sections. Lunchtime was from 12 to 12:30 p.m. and dinner at about 6 p.m. The time for the morning and afternoon snacks was not prescribed. The meal tickets were valid for one week. Advance payments were made on or about the 15th of each month, and the balance was paid on the last day of each month. The amount of the advance was usually fixed by the foreman. The money was handed out in paper bags, which also contained the wage slips. The workers did not have to sign for the money but their wage control cards were punched by the employee handling the payment.

11. Some of the employees lived in the works home in Kladno-Rozdelov.
12. The news broadcasts of Radio Praha were transmitted over the plant's radio daily at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Almost every day, news and propaganda concerning the Kladno plant and other SONP works, as well as music, was transmitted.
13. The plant published a weekly called "Kovak". The price for a three months' subscription was 20 Kcs. (old currency). A foreman in the M 2 section handled the publishing work.
14. Every month, the control cards for the issuance of food ration tickets had to be stamped in the bookkeeping-office of the M 2 section. The basic card ("Kmenovy list") had to be produced as evidence twice a year.
15. Every employee had to be a member of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement (ROH).
16. Security measures in the Kladno plant were as follows:
  - a. The plant site is fenced in as follows: From Gate 2 in the direction of the M 3 section (approximately 200 m.) a concrete wall 220 cm. high topped with barbed wire, continued by a wooden fence about 200 cm. high as far as the vicinity of the Zapotocky Mines, then a wire mesh fence about 180 cm. high. Near the M 3 section, the ground within the fence is higher than outside and it is easy to enter and leave the plant site here.
  - b. The plant area can be entered through three gates called Vratnice 1, 2 and 3. In addition, there is a vehicle entrance near the eastern corner of the plant area. The railroad from the Konev Foundry leads over a viaduct into the SONP plant. Pedestrians may pass through gates 1, 2 and 3 only.
  - c. Plant police (sic):
    - (1) The plant police has about 10 to 15 members. The guard room is located at Gate 1. The guards are posted at the gates as follows:
 

Gate 1	3 guards
Gate 2	2 guards; sometimes only one
Gate 3	2 guards; sometimes only one
Vehicle entrance	one old worker
    - (2) The plant police wear green uniforms and on duty they are armed with pistols, but mostly only during the night.
    - (3) The same guards are always on duty at a specific gate for a twelve-hour shift.

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(4) Roving patrols are rarely met within the plant [redacted] [redacted] During the night shift, the chief of the Security Section, Podany (Inu), checks every section of the plant. If a worker is found away from his place of work, he is fined and subjected to a higher work quota.

(5) On special occasions (such as Stalin's and Gottwald's deaths) the plant militia was also on duty. Its members were armed with carbines and automatic pistols. Each section had its own unit. The militia trained irregularly. Rifle training took place in a concrete tunnel at the south-east end of the new rolling mill for ingots. On special occasions, members of the militia patrolled the plant site. Their main duty, however, was guarding the equipment.

e. The plant site was illuminated during the night.

f. The plant site could be entered without great difficulty at the following places:

- (1) Over the wall or fence on the side of the M 3 section.
- (2) Near gate 1 over the railroad viaduct. The ground was sloping and the viaduct was illuminated; however, there was no guard and no gate.
- (3) At times, at the entrance of the railroad siding from the Dubi station. The guard shack located at this point was never occupied.

g. The M 1, 2 and 3 sections were designated "secret".

h. Officially, the workers were forbidden to go from one section to another. However, this restriction was disregarded.

i. When passing through one of the gates, the workers had to produce their plant passes. If an outsider wished to see an employee on an important matter, he had to state his request to the guard at the gate, who, in turn, would call the worker in question to the gate by phone.

j. Each employee of the plant had to be in possession of a control card on which the time of arrival and departure was marked by the time clock. The cards were kept in the control section and punched at the section's clock. Only the cards of office employees and of workers working in the open areas were punched at the time clock at the gate, where they were kept.

k. The plant had its own fire brigade, the quarters of which were located near the canteen in the direction of the power plant. In addition to the fire trucks, the ambulances were also stationed here. Next to the building was a watch tower 12 m. high. The plant was equipped with a number of fire extinguishers and cloth-covered hoses for hydrants.

l. The plant was not yet equipped with air raid equipment. [redacted] [redacted] only the underground clockrooms offer protection to the workers. In summer 1952, a siren test was made in the Kladno area.

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